

ATLANTA TORNADO: THE AFTERMATH

LANDMARKS TAKE A HIT



People look out from blown-out windows at the Omni Hotel at CNN Center on Saturday after a tornado hit Atlanta Friday night.



An aerial photo shows extensive damage wrought Friday night on the Equitable Building at 100 Peachtree St. in downtown Atlanta. Windows were blown out in many downtown buildings.

Downtown twister wreaks havoc on historic cemetery and skyscrapers, as well as city's newest gathering places

Centennial Olympic Park. Two of the "Hermes Towers" — the 65-foot-tall light towers that resemble giant Olympic torches — were blown down at the park.

CNN Center/Omni Hotel. The roof of the CNN Center was damaged, and water from storms reached the atrium floor several stories below. The atrium area was closed Saturday morning. Dozens of windows of the Omni Hotel were shattered or pulled from their frames by the storm's force.

Ebenezer Baptist Church. Tree limbs and other debris were blown in from other areas, but no damage was reported by officials connected to the historic church.

Georgia Pacific Building. The windows were shattered on three sides of the building at Peachtree and Forsyth streets, and curtains in upper-floor windows could be seen swaying in the wind. The area around the building was roped off for at least 10 yards because of broken glass dangling six stories up. Workers in hard hats were working to secure the building despite the danger.

Georgia World Congress Center. There was damage across the campus, including roof and water damage to the convention center. Katy Pando, spokeswoman for the GWCC, said the building was hit by both rainwater and water from the sprinkler system and damaged pipes inside the building. She said there were some injuries, but none were serious.

Grady Hospital. At least two historic buildings in the hospital complex suffered moderate damage and 17 of 18 buildings lost power, officials said. A few windows were blown out of the cafeteria in the main hospital where inpatients are treated, but the building retained power. Georgia Hall, the original home of the 115-year-old hospital, lost windows and a chimney, said Craig Tindall, Grady's interim chief operating officer, and there was some water damage inside. Three ambulances — including Grady's only operating neonatal transport unit — were out of commission Saturday because of storm damage.

Jimmy Carter Presidential Library and Museum. The center was pummeled by rain but there were no signs of flooding or building damage.

Martin Luther King Center. Rich Klima, park ranger with the National Parks Service, said the national historic site escaped major damage.

Oakland Cemetery. Dozens of trees and old monuments were toppled by the storm. "We took a big hit," said Sam Reed, sexton, or caretaker, of the property. He estimated that 50 or 60 old trees, including the oldest crape myrtle, were down, many by the roots. Many more, including ancient magnolias, were damaged and may have to be removed. The 100-year-old ladies comfort station that was under renovation was split in two by a tree. Winds also tossed headstones and obelisks. The 20-foot obelisk for the Winship family was toppled from its platform and had broken in half across a paved path. Metal from the nearby train tracks, paper from nearby offices and other trash littered the grounds. A shredded window blind was draped like a necklace around the marker for James L. Bell, a Confederate soldier who died in 1918. "I've been here 10 years and I've seen storms come through here, but never like this," Reed said.

Philips Arena. There was no discernible exterior damage, but officials canceled Saturday night's Winter Jam Spectacular. The event won't be made up.

SunTrust Building. Mangled blinds dangled out of broken windows on one side of the high-rise building. The building's entrance area, damaged by the storm, was boarded up Saturday morning.

Tabernacle. The 98-year-old Atlanta landmark took a severe hit: Windows were blown out, the roof was "severely" damaged and a water pipe broke. "We're pretty much messed up," said building manager Eric Snoddy. "It's going to be awhile before we reopen, but it looks like we survived better than some places."

Ted's Montana Grill. A downtown Atlanta penthouse belonging to the owner, philanthropist and media mogul Ted Turner, suffered damage. Turner was not in the residence at the time of the storm. Ed Bazor, director of construction for Ted's, said one person suffered a minor cut from shattered glass. Bazor said the building had at least \$25,000 in damage. Workers were patching windows Saturday so that the restaurant could reopen. The rest of the facility was in good shape, Bazor said, though the familiar bison-shaped sign will need to be replaced.

Westin Peachtree Plaza Hotel. The sidewalks below the landmark cylindrical high-rise were littered with yellow insulation, broken glass and pieces of metal Saturday morning. Several windows were blown out.

Walton Building barbershop. The police officers and firefighters who get their hair cut at this historic snip shop may have to find a new barber. The barbershop, facing Cone Street, suffered major damage. Large plate-glass windows were blown out and pieces of the drop ceiling sagged inside. A hunk of metal, blown from a building blocks away, rested on the sidewalk in front.

— Compiled by Rhonda Cook, Phil Gast, Paul Kasko, S.A. Reid, Michelle Shaw, Leon Stafford and Gayle White



Dozens of twisted, broken and uprooted trees were scattered among damaged grave markers and buildings at Oakland Cemetery on Saturday. Sam Reed, sexton of Oakland Cemetery, said he was in the cemetery's bell tower when high winds hit Friday night.